

November 4, 2002

***THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 11/6/02.***

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-065

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

**Facility**

American Testing Services, Inc.  
West Valley City, Utah  
License No.: UT 1800062  
Utah Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 1, 2002, the Utah Division of Radiation Control (the Division) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

On November 1, 2002, the Division received notification of the theft of the gauge from American Testing Services, Inc., a Utah licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen from the bed of a pickup truck while parked at a grocery store located in West Valley City, Utah at approximately 11:30 a.m. (MST) on November 1, 2002. The gauge's source rod was locked in the safe shielded position. The gauge was secured in its transportation case which was chained to the licensee's pickup truck. The company employee had stopped briefly to purchase batteries and discovered that the chain had been cut and the gauge missing when he returned to the truck. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3411-B (Serial No. 7940), containing a 0.29 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) source of cesium-137 (Serial No. CC-571) and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium (Serial No. CCA-4262). The licensee promptly notified the local police and is offering a reward for the return of the gauge.

The Division has issued a press release and is continuing to investigate this event. The Division notified the States of Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by email from NRC's Operations Center at 3:30 p.m. (CDT) on November 1, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT, and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m. (CST) on November 4, 2002.

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